

Serial No. 09/914,178

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**Amendments To The Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-20 (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Previously presented)     An oral rinse composition, comprising:  
   at least about 0.04% benzocaine,  
   less than about 10% by weight carbomer; and  
   a solvent system comprising water as a predominate solvent.

Claim 22 (Previously presented)     The composition of claim 21 wherein said  
composition is free of aliphatic alcoholic solvents.

Claim 23 (Previously presented)     The composition of claim 21 comprising greater  
than about 80% by weight water.

Claim 24. (Previously presented)     The composition of claim 23 comprising from about  
0.04 to about 5 % by weight of said benzocaine.

Claim 25. (Previously presented)     The composition of claim 24 wherein the weight  
ratio of said benzocaine to said carbomer is about 2:1.

Claim 26. (Previously presented)     The composition of claim 25 comprising greater  
than about 90% by weight water.

Claim 27. (Previously presented)     The composition of claim 23 comprising a  
neutralizing agent in an amount effective to provide the composition with a pH of about 8  
or greater.

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Claim 28. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 27 comprising from about 0.001% to about 3% by weight of said neutralizing agent.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28 wherein said neutralizing agent comprises triethanolamine.

Claim 30. (Presently Amended) The composition of claim 21 wherein said solvent system consists essentially of water ~~composition is free of non-alcoholic organic solvents.~~

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 30 comprising greater than about 80% by weight of said water, from about 0.04% to about 5% by weight of said benzocaine, up to about 10% by weight of said carbomer, and from about 0.001% to about 3% by weight of said neutralizing agent, said composition having a pH of about 8 or higher.